

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-59. (Canceled)

60. (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:
receiving a plurality of reference images;
calculating by a computer image parameters for each reference image wherein the image parameters characterize color, texture and shape features that are common to the reference image and at least one other reference image;
combining by the computer the calculated image parameters to generate a composite reference image; and
comparing by the computer the composite reference image to images in a collection in order to identify one or more of the images having features described by the composite reference image.
61. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the reference images are ranked and wherein calculating parameters for each reference image includes weighting the parameters based on each reference image's rank.
62. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein a reference image includes raster data.
63. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein a reference image includes vector data.
64. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the collection includes audio objects.
65. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein combining further comprises:
receiving one or more reference audio objects;

calculating sound parameters for each reference audio object wherein the sound parameters characterize sound features in the reference sound object that map to image parameters of at least one reference image; and

combining the sound parameters with the image parameters to produce composite reference information.

66. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein comparing includes comparing the composite reference information to images and sound objects in a collection in order to identify one or more of the images or the sound objects having features described by the composite reference information.

67. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein comparing further comprises calculating image parameters for the one or more images in the collection.

68. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein comparing further comprises comparing the composite reference image to parameters of each of the one or more images in the collection.

69. (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:
receiving a plurality of reference video objects;
calculating by a computer video parameters for each reference video object wherein the video parameters characterize image and audio features in the reference video object that are common to the reference video object and at least one other reference video object; and
combining by the computer the video parameters to generate composite reference information; and
comparing by the computer the composite reference information to video objects in a collection in order to identify one or more of the video objects having features described by the composite reference information.

70. (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:
receiving a plurality of reference text objects;
calculating by a computer text parameters for each reference text object wherein the text parameters characterize language features in the reference text object that are common to the

reference text object and at least one other reference text object; and

combining by the computer the text parameters to generate composite reference text; and

comparing by the computer the composite reference text to text objects in a collection in order to identify one or more of the text objects having features described by the composite reference text.

71. (New) A computer program product, encoded on a computer-readable medium, operable to cause one or more processors to perform operations comprising:

receiving a plurality of reference images;

calculating by a computer image parameters for each reference image wherein the image parameters characterize color, texture and shape features that are common to the reference image and at least one other reference image;

combining by the computer the calculated image parameters to generate a composite reference image; and

comparing by the computer the composite reference image to images in a collection in order to identify one or more of the images having features described by the composite reference image.

72. (New) The program product of claim 71 wherein the reference images are ranked and wherein calculating parameters for each reference image includes weighting the parameters based on each reference image's rank.

73. (New) The program product of claim 71 wherein a reference image includes raster data.

74. (New) The program product of claim 71 wherein a reference image includes vector data.

75. (New) The program product of claim 71 wherein the collection includes audio objects.

76. (New) The program product of claim 75 wherein combining further comprises:

receiving one or more reference audio objects;

calculating sound parameters for each reference audio object wherein the sound parameters characterize sound features in the reference sound object that map to image

parameters of at least one reference image; and

combining the sound parameters with the image parameters to produce composite reference information.

77. (New) The program product of claim 76 wherein comparing includes comparing the composite reference information to images and sound objects in a collection in order to identify one or more of the images or the sound objects having features described by the composite reference information.

78. (New) The program product of claim 71 wherein comparing further comprises calculating image parameters for the one or more images in the collection.

79. (New) The program product of claim 78 wherein comparing further comprises comparing the composite reference image to parameters of each of the one or more images in the collection.

80. (New) A system comprising:

a display device;

a machine-readable storage device including a program product; and

one or more computers operable to execute the program product, interact with the display device, and perform operations comprising:

receiving a plurality of reference images;

calculating by a computer image parameters for each reference image wherein the image parameters characterize color, texture and shape features that are common to the reference image and at least one other reference image;

combining by the computer the calculated image parameters to generate a composite reference image; and

comparing by the computer the composite reference image to images in a collection in order to identify one or more of the images having features described by the composite reference image.